

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

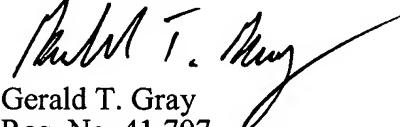
Claims 1-24 were pending. Claims 1, 6-13, 17-19, 22 and 23 have been amended, and claim 24 has been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-23 will be pending.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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